

Message Text

SECRET

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62

ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 NSCE-00 NSC-05 NEA-07 INR-05

CIAE-00 MMO-01 L-01 AF-04 /047 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB - GROBERTS/DOD/ISA - COL KING

APPROVED BY EA - PCHABIB

EA/P - MSMITH (SUBSTANCE)

PM/ISO - JSCOTT (SUBSTANCE)

NEA - PADEFORD (SUBS)

NSC - MR. BARNES

S/S-O:DLMACK

----- 051409

R 032134Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO CINCPAC

CINCSAC OFFUTT AFB

CINCPAC FLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF ICKAM AFB HI

CDRUSACSG FT SHAFTER HI

CSA

CNO

CSAF

COMAC SCOTT AFB ILL

COMUSMACHTAI BANGKOK

DIRNSA

S E C R E T STATE 081243

LIMDIS, MILITARY ADDRESSES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: USE OF UTAPAO FOR DIEGO GARCIA TRANSIT

REFS: A. BANGKOK 6671 (DTG 221236Z MAR 76)

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1. WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOU WHICH SHOULD ENABLE US TO COPE WITH NEAR-TERM THAI PROBLEMS IN A COMPREHENSIVE MANNER. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, WE HAVE A PRESSING PROBLEM ARISING FROM OUR NEED TO SUPPORT DIEGO GARCIA.

2. IN OUR VIEW THERE ARE TWO POSSIBLE APPROACHES:

A. WHILE WE ARE RELUCTANT TO SEND YOU IN TO THE THAI ON THIS ONE ISSUE, WE COULD GO TO THEM AND EXPLAIN THAT WE ARE URGENTLY CONSIDERING THE PROBLEM OF LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR DIEGO GARCIA. UNTIL WE CAN RESOLVE THE PROBLEM WE WOULD APPRECIATE RTG AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUPPORT FLIGHTS.

B. A SECOND APPROACH WOULD BE TO INITIATE THE FLIGHTS WITHOUT APPROACHING THE RTG. IF THE THAI ASK, WE WOULD PLAN TO HAVE YOU RESPOND THAT WE CONSIDER THESE FLIGHTS TO BE PART OF THE NORMAL INTERIM ACTIVITY. WE

WOULD SAY THAT WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT DIEGO GARCIA BUT UNTIL AN ALTERNATIVE HAS BEEN FOUND WE ARE MAKING USE OF U-TAPAO DURING THE FOUR (4) MONTH ADJUSTMENT PERIOD. IF THE THAI DO NOT ASK, OF COURSE, WE WOULD SAY NOTHING. IF QUERIED BY THE MEDIA WE WOULD RESPOND THAT WE ARE USING THAI FACILITIES DURING THE PERIOD TO 20 JULY 1976 FOR RETROGRADE ACTIVITIES AND FOR OTHER NORMAL LOGISTIC SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH WE HAD NOT YET FOUND ALTERNATE MEANS.

3. REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. KISSINGER

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NNN

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